

1 of 5 Title: One of the most important discourses on Solitary Confinement you'll ever read from a CT prisoner.

S. B. 1059

By: Carlton Walker

Dear Friends,

There's been much speculation about Northern C.I.'s end, and it is now in the process of coming to its fruition. Solitary Confinement's end will hopefully be in the imminent future. Until then, let us continue to fight for humane and institutional liberty. In this letter I will do my absolute best in trying to impart understanding and awareness in respect to Solitary Confinement in Northern C.I., being that I am just one more victim of this savage system of the North American prison industrial complex.

Before I go on and on about the components of Solitary Confinement's abuses on its captives, I would just like to point out that Connecticut DOC has some of the most safest correctional facilities, not because of its fine job in making it so, but because of the individuals who are incarcerated coming from Connecticut cities and towns not producing as many violent crimes as many of the major cities in the United States - Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans, New York, etc.. In Connecticut prisons, most prisoners are just not killing other prisoners, raping other prisoners, extorting other prisoners, and doing as many things to other prisoners like those who are imprisoned in other states. But, Administrative Segregation will reek the worst out of these semi-hostile persons who have already partaken of violence in their urban communities, sold drugs in their neighborhoods; because they came from impoverished communities and were half-way reared in dysfunctional homes. My friends, Solitary Confinement - namely Administrative Segregation - is another dysfunctional home, causing the abused to become more abusive... even to themselves. The prisoner who's in Solitary Confinement at Northern C.I., the one who's been in

and out of Connecticut's God-forsaken prison plantation is far from being institutionalized because he's what I call "Northernized." Solitary Confinement is like a prison system within a prison system, a "double prison." Past Commissioners of DOC along with their prison administrators imagined that they were preventing and stabilizing potential violence and on-going violence in Connecticut's correctional facilities, but what they were really doing was sweeping everything under the rug until the whole fabric became ruined beyond repair. I speak in respect to how those who are incarcerated in Solitary Confinement have very high mortality rates compared to the non-solitary confinement prisoners, in Connecticut and in other states of America. Suicide, homicide, and drug-overdose are the three main killers of isolation's captives. In other words, we make our departure from Solitary Confinement and prison to make a negative impact on society as well as ourselves. Even when we transition into the General Population of CT DOC we find it hard to get back to our old selves, which had many flaws, various shortcomings, but still a lot better than our newfound selves, the versions of us that personify self-destruction and self-degradation.

Out of everything that has been greatly emphasized about Northern C.I. and Solitary Confinement, there is one main thing that is in my cognitive opinion underemphasized: that is the racial implication of this primitive system of Connecticut's Department of Corrections. Most of Administrative Segregation's inmates are Black, then Latino, while every once and awhile someone white will be admitted into the program. In Northern C.I. there has been many cases of C/O brutality, deliberate indifference to mental health and medical needs, sexual abuse, and other forms of cruel and unusual punishment to so many

Black prisoners we have no choice but to identify with the Negroes we read about in Slave narratives, novels and movies. This is why most of us—Black prisoners—take not only pain but pleasure in undergoing abuse (I know it sounds crazy). Because we fight back just like some of them, especially those Blacks who were more modern—Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Huey P. Newton, Fred Hampton and so many others. Whether we're covering our cell windows despite the possibility of receiving Interfering with Safety and Security disciplinary reports, getting naked up, being placed on 4-point restraints, or in-celled, we know that we're not just taking punches without exerting aggressive force. This mentality and course of behavior is probably our greatest form of therapy. CT DOC made us into masochistic animals. As time progressed, I did come to understand that the exhaustion of administrative remedies and the prospect of litigation is the best route for meaningful change. However, even with the grievance system, as well as the DOC disciplinary process—especially in Northern C.I.—there's a systemic capacity for institutions to deny and rock compromises. When we submitted grievance forms with legitimate requests and arguments, we were mostly denied, as the "appropriate" parties twist up the meanings of the directives (rules and regulations) as a way to suppress our reasonable and institutional aspirations. Just like antebellum slave masters and overseers, the DOC administrators want to keep their gigantic feet on the scrawny necks of its "minority" prisoners. In post-modern Connecticut, being that most of the DOC prison population is Black and Latino, it is imperative that healthy relationships are built up between the prisoners who

are predominantly Black and Latino, and prison officials which are predominantly Caucasian. Why should racist attitudes develop amongst CT prisoners when Correctional Officers and administrators—whose personnel are supposed to be striving to rehabilitate us? In this present time, especially with the Black Lives Matter movement on the outside we see white DOC employees (most of them) as semi or full-racists. This ought not be! This is the state of Connecticut in the 21st century, not Alabama in the 1960s. Is this not the Constitution State?

Connecticut DOC, especially Northern CT. as I have mentioned before has an unjust disciplinary system. As an African-American I feel like I'm in the Jim Crow South, I can't get a fair chance in DR. (disciplinary report) Court. The DR. Investigator is a Correctional Officer, the D.H.O. (disciplinary hearing officer) is a "refined" hearing Correctional Officer, the individuals who wrote and signed off on the tickets are all different types of Correctional Officers, and the District Administrator was most likely a Warden and some time before that a Correctional Officer. Institutional racism and anti-prisoner attitudes keep the Connecticut prisoners, namely the Solitary Confinement prisoners suppressed and oppressed. When these things undergo serious reformations there can be healing for prisoners to reset their classifications. The absence of healing makes harm present.

My very first time in the A/S program was in the year 2010, right after I caught an Assault on a Public Safety Officer charge. I spent a little less than four full years in the Solitary Confinement Program, even after they moved phases 2 and 3 to Cheshire Correctional Institution. Within

My first year of Solitary confinement at Northern C.I., I became a prison exhibitionist, exposing myself to female DOC employees to break up the monotony of my non-recreational environment. We only received one hour of recreation Monday through Friday, no recreation at nights or on the weekends. We also had no television to watch in our cells. I got into my share of cell fights with other individuals who were just as mentally unstable as I was, people who couldn't maintain a "reasonable" degree of mental stability and human civility one needs to reform self. After being back and forth to the A/S program for many years, I was diagnosed with the disorder of exhibitionism, Anti-Social Personality Disorder, and Narcissism by Dr. Freyne. (This was April 10, 2017.) According to mental health personnel in today's Northern C.I., I've been "undiagnosed" with exhibitionism. But that doesn't make any sense seeing that I've been receiving an alarming amount of Public Indecency tickets throughout the many years I've been in Solitary Confinement. While the A/S administration treats me like the rat in the "Skinner's Box," I keep going round and round with the same detrimental behaviors. All they can do is bombard me with tickets and sanctions, not doing enough to treat me with the right tools of treatment. On the 5th of February last year (2020) I overdosed on Depakote and was sent to the outside hospital. I almost died trying to bring attention to the inhumane conditions of Solitary Confinement. On March 30, 2020 I was brutally beaten by Correctional Officers' Wernell and Midford (their last names). My lawyer and I do plan on suing prison officials via 1983 Complaint. Victory is inevitable!

Sincerely,  
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